

Serial No. 10/065,850
Reply to Office Action of May 24, 2007

122023-1

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 were presented in the application as filed on November 26, 2002. In an Office action dated October 3, 2005, restriction to a single invention was required. The claims of Group I, claims 1-7, 12-18, 22-27, 35, 37 and 39 were elected in a response dated November 5, 2005, claims 1-9 were cancelled in a response dated March 5, 2007, and claims 24 and 25 were cancelled in the submission filed with a Request for Continued Examination dated April 7, 2007. Therefore, claims 12-18, 22, 23, 26, 27, and 37 are currently under consideration.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 12, 13, 22 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,949,878, to Suzuri. The rejection is traversed.

Suzuri relates to a multicolor light emission apparatus (Abstract) composed of electron injection layer 26 and cathode 27 (FIG. 7, col. 30, lines 60-67). In sustaining the rejection, the Office action states that "(a)s the elongated members [referring to cathode 27] are in contact with electrically conducting material 26, they are electrically interconnected." With respect, Applicants point out that Suzuri's device would not function as intended if cathode 27 were "electrically interconnected." It is a requirement of pixelated applications such as that disclosed by Suzuri that neighboring light emitting areas be addressable separately. (See, for example, description of FIG. 3, describing "the emission process of the pixels" (col. 4, line 61, col. 5, line 54)). In passive-matrix displays, for example, the perceived color of one color-pixel is set by the relative brightness of the three R, G, and B pixels, which is done by applying a certain voltage to each of the pixels. If neighboring cathodes were electrically interconnected (electrically shorted together), then all pixels would give off the same color and brightness. It should be noted that a blanket layer like Suzuri's electron injection layer 26 is only used if its sheet conductivity is low enough so that the voltage (electrochemical potential) of neighboring elongated members can be set independently. A typical example is LiF, employed in Example 1/FIG. 7 of Suzuri, which is by itself a dielectric (thus an insulator) and has a negligible conductivity in the plane of the film. If more conductive materials such as metals are used, they are also either very very thin, or they are part of the elongated members. Therefore, since Suzuri does not describe a structure wherein elongated members are electrically interconnected, Applicants submit that the reference does not anticipate claims 1 or 12 or

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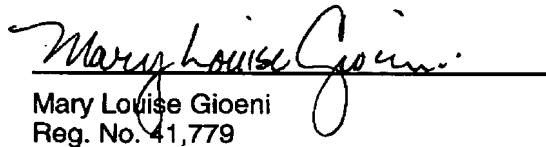
claims 13, 22 or 26, which depend from claim 12. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 12-18, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 37 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being US 6,949,878, to Suzuri. The rejection is traversed.

The deficiencies of Suzuri are discussed above. Since the reference neither teaches or suggests a structure as set forth in independent claims 12, 27 and 37 and their dependent claims, Applicants submit the claims are also not obvious in view thereof. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome, and that all pending claims are patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all claims under consideration herein.

Respectfully submitted,


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